

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-50. (cancelled)

51. (currently amended) A method for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

providing a file with information to be printed on the printed document, said file not having said unique identifier stored therein prior to a printing of said information on said document;

providing on a recording medium a transponder, said transponder being capable of being electronically read without contact, and said unique identifier being stored in unchangeable fashion in an electronic storage region of said transponder;

printing said information from said file onto said recording medium to create said printed document;

reading said unique identifier from said transponder after said printing; and

linking said unique identifier read from said transponder in said file with said information printed on said recording medium forming said printed document.

52. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein the file is used to check validity of the document wherein the information printed on the document is checked against the unique identifier read from the transponder.

53. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein the file is used to check a printing error in the document.

54. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein in addition to said unchangeable identifier, additional data is written into the transponder.

55. (previously presented) A method of claim 54 wherein the additional data written into the transponder is changeable in the transponder.

56. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein said unchangeable identifier stored in the transponder is also printed on the recording medium.

57. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein the unchangeable identifier comprises an identifier number which is also printed on the recording medium.

58. (previously presented) A method of claim 57 wherein the unchangeable identifier printed on the recording medium comprises plain text.

59. (previously presented) A method of claim 57 wherein the unchangeable identifier printed on the recording medium comprises a bar code.

60. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein the unchangeable identifier refers to a person and the information stored in said file printed on said document relates to said person.

61. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein the unchangeable identifier refers to goods and said information printed on the recording medium refers to said goods.

62. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein said unchangeable identifier is stored in an encrypted fashion in the transponder.

63. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein said printing of said information on said recording medium is by use of an electrophotographic print device.

64. (previously presented) A method of claim 51 wherein said transponder is capable of being electronically written without contact.

65. (currently amended) A method for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

providing a file with information to be printed on the printed document, said file not having said unique identifier stored therein prior to a printing of said information on said document;

providing on a recording medium a transponder, said transponder being capable of being electronically read without contact, and said transponder having an electronic storage region for storing said unique identifier in unchangeable fashion;

printing said information from said file onto said recording medium to create said printed document;

reading said unique identifier from said transponder after said printing; and

linking said unchangeable unique identifier in said file with said information printed on said recording medium forming said printed document.

66. (previously presented) A method of claim 65 wherein the unique identifier is electronically written into said transponder before printing of said information.

67. (previously presented) A method of claim 65 wherein said unique identifier is electronically written into said transponder after said printing of said information.

68. (currently amended) A method for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

providing a file with information to be printed on the printed document, said file not having said unique identifier stored therein prior to a printing of said information on said document;

printing said information from said file onto said recording medium to create said printed document;

providing on said recording medium a transponder, said transponder being capable of being electronically read without contact, and the unique identifier being stored in unchangeable fashion in an electronic storage region of said transponder;

reading said unique identifier from said transponder; and

linking said unchangeable unique identifier in said file with said information printed on said recording medium forming said printed document.

69. (currently amended) A method for production of a printed document with the unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

providing a file having information for printing on the printed document, said file not having said unique identifier stored therein prior to a reading of said unique identifier;

providing a recording medium with a transponder thereon for the unique identifier, said transponder being capable of being electronically read without contact, and the unique identifier being stored in unchangeable fashion in an electronic storage region of said transponder;

reading said unchangeable unique identifier from said transponder; and

printing said information from said file onto said recording medium to create said printed document and also linking said unique identifier in said file to said information printed on the recording medium.

70. (previously presented) A method of claim 69 wherein the file is used to check validity of the document wherein the unique identifier is read from the transponder and compared with the information printed on said document by use of said linking in said file.

71. (previously presented) A method of claim 69 wherein said unchangeable unique identifier is also printed on the recording medium.

72. (previously presented) A method of claim 71 wherein the unique identifier is printed as plain text on the recording medium.

73. (previously presented) A method of claim 71 wherein the unique identifier is printed as a bar code on said recording medium.

74. (previously presented) A method of claim 69 wherein said unchangeable identifier relates to a person.

75. (previously presented) A method of claim 69 wherein said unchangeable identifier relates to goods.

76. (previously presented) A method of claim 68 wherein said printing of said recording medium is done with an electrophotographic print device.

77. (previously presented) A method of claim 69 wherein said read unchangeable identifier is used to determine whether or not there was a printing error on the document by use of said linking in said file.

78. (previously presented) A method of claim 69 wherein said transponder is capable of being written without contact.